



### **SPEAKING COMPANION**

On behalf of Pastor Greg and the entire Crossing Church, we want to say welcome to you! We are excited to have you with us in our services as a guest speaker, as you share the Word of God and express your heart to the people of The Crossing Church. We have prepared this document to assist you and ask for you to take a moment to review the information before you begin your journey to our campuses. We want to avoid any type of delay or distraction for you while you are with us and should you have questions, please utilize the contact information found at the end of this Companion Guide. Again, on behalf of all of us here at The Crossing Church we look forward to seeing you soon.

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#### **THE CROSSING CHURCH SERVICE TIMES:**

**TAMPA CAMPUS: Sunday: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM**

**SOUTHSHORE CAMPUS: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM**

**SPANISH CAMPUS: Sunday: 1:30 PM**

Our services are scheduled for 65 minutes in length. On average, you'll be speaking, including invitation, for no more than 40 minutes. Please respect this window of time, in every service. Extending the service length by increasing the duration of your message can have negative consequences in the Children and Youth Ministries, Parking, and other Streaming Campus sites. Thank you in advance for being considerate of your allotted time.

#### **DRESS:**

In a word: casual. If you wear a tie, you'll be the only one in the room. That's probably the biggest indicator that you're new around here. Shirts are rarely tucked in. Jeans are normal.

## **WEEKLY MESSAGE PRE-MEETING:**

1. Please email your final outline, including points, fill-ins, scripture references (with specific translation version) by the preceding Tuesday at noon to [chall@crossingonline.org](mailto:chall@crossingonline.org). You can expect to receive a phone call from Chad Hall, a Support Pastor from the Lead Pastors office, regarding your notes and any questions or concerns we might have. Please include a contact number where you can be reached.
2. Please email your final message notes (or transcript) to [chall@crossingonline.org](mailto:chall@crossingonline.org) by 12:00 PM the Saturday before you speak. Numerous technical support staff and volunteers will need this information in order to execute the weekend service with excellence and support the message with various media tools, we will use these final notes. Any changes or deviations to your notes or message need to be discussed with Chad Hall directly.
3. We request your presence via conference call or video call at our Greenlight Meeting on the Wednesday preceding your speaking at 10:30 AM. In this meeting, we'll ask you to review your message with us. Typically, it should take about 20 minutes. Our experience is that a 20-minute message in run-through will equate to a 35-minute message in the service. Please send us your phone number for the Conference Call.

## **On the Day of:**

1. As a way of helping to serve you, we would request you to arrive at 8:00AM to the Lead Pastor's Greenroom. Here's the why behind the request. This time will go very fast and will also allow you a few minutes to become situated before we get you prepped and moving for the day. Here's a typical schedule of events

8:00AM	Announcement Review and Microphone Check
8:10AM	Speaker Microphone Prep for Service
8:15AM	Speaker Message Review with Tech Team and Microphone Check.
8:30AM	Prayer with our Elders and Lead Pastor Support Team
8:40AM	Final Prep Checks
8:45AM	Rest
8:59AM	Escort to Reserved Seating for Service
9:00AM	Service Begins

**SERMON SUPPORT/MEDIA USAGE:**

Any video or multimedia needs must be communicated by noon the Tuesday before you speak (videos, photos, sermon points, scriptures, etc.). We do not use consumer media presentation tools (ie. Powerpoint, DVD, transparencies, flannel graph, etc.). Sermon fill-ins and video elements must be specially encoded for use in our services. If elements don't arrive promptly on Tuesday, it can compromise our ability to deliver the content in the service. We do not provide a sermon outline in the bulletin, but there are spaces for notes to be taken.

**SPEAKING:**

1. Referencing scriptures on screen helps those who don't know Christ or those who are new in the faith, to feel just as comfortable in the service as someone who has known Christ for a long time. It also gives us the flexibility to utilize numerous translations of scripture in the same message.
2. You will be speaking to a room with a broad ethnic diversity In the quintessential Crossing family, mom and/or dad are around 35-45 years of age. They are middle class, with kids High School age or younger. Spiritually, about 40% of our congregation, are former Catholics. The remaining either came to Christ at The Crossing or sprinkled in from various other denominations.
3. We choose our words carefully. Plain-speak is important to us. Try to avoid obscure Biblical references without bringing context. Just because you know who Gideon was, doesn't mean your audience does. If you assume your listener is ignorant of most Bible stories, you're probably safe.
4. We use lots of translations of scripture in an attempt to offer as clear a picture of the Bible and what it means for us today as possible to the average person.
5. Orders of service are available in the Greenroom and will outline the sequence and length of all service elements. Our services are highly structured in an attempt to honor other ministries and people serving people during our services.
6. For Sunday broadcast at our other campuses. Here are some specific things you need to know about speaking:

- a. After our Worship and Announcement time, there will be a 30-45 second video bumper before you speak. This allows our team to put the table, TV and any props you have in place before you begin to speak.
- b. When you greet the church in your opening remarks, be sure to also welcome “our SouthShore Campus, plus all others joining us online TODAY.”
- c. We ask for you to pray at the top of your message for anything the Lord lays on your heart just after the welcoming of our campuses.
- d. We know that in some churches when Scripture is read, there is a request to stand, however we do not ask people to stand during the reading of Scripture.
- e. Don’t reference specific weather or time sensitive matters that would be irrelevant to those at a venue meeting at a different time and location.
- f. Spend 60% of your time speaking into the cameras positioned near the tech booth. Also understand most of the people in the audience are watching you on a side screen anyway and not directly looking right at you.
- g. When speaking, please note we have a TV monitor on the platform with you, which will display your sermon support. When referencing a scripture or a point in your message, please stand at the podium or near the TV so our streaming and online campuses are able to follow along with you.
- h. Close your message with a prayer of Salvation and ask for people to raise their hands and then count to three and pause, our Campus Pastors will take over at their campuses at this point. You may close

out with having people pray the sinners prayer as a whole, rather than as single individuals. Normally we will clap after the prayer has concluded. A Campus Pastor or Service Host will then segue from prayer into our texting for Salvations, Letting them Know about our Prayer Partners, Praying for the offering and dismissing the service.

**AFTER SERVICE:**

Please return to the Green Room once you have finished speaking.

- a. Your host will help you make your way to the lobby to greet people as they exit, if you would like.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:**

We stand ready to assist you in anyway we can. It's our desire for your time with us to be enjoyable and impactful for the Kingdom of God. If you need any other resources, please let us know.

**PEOPLE YOU MIGHT NEED AT SOME POINT:**

If you need anything, please contact **Pastor Chad Hall** (813) 549-4246 with the Lead Pastor's Office. He will be able to assist you with any questions you may have or accommodations you need. \_